

LIBRARY 21 COMMITTEE

Fourteenth Meeting
February 26, 1997

Sakey Lecture hall
Main Library

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair, Nancy Woods, at 6:35 p.m. in the Joseph G. Sakey Lecture Hall of the Main Library, 449 Broadway.

Members in attendance:

Nancy B. Woods, Co-chair
Richard Rossi, Co-chair
William Barry
Ruth Butler
Karen Carmean
Ed DeAngelo
John Gintell
Karen Kosko
Andre Meyer
David Szlag
Emily West
Robert Winters
Roger Boothe
Susan Flannery

Co-chair Woods introduced the Committee members to the audience and said that the Committee was in the 3rd phase of its work, "Refining the program -- system opportunities."

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Minutes: The minutes of the January 15, 1997 meeting were approved with no changes and may be posted to the Library 21 web page and distributed among the branch libraries.

Meeting dates: Dates for the next three meetings were set -- Tuesday, March 18; Tuesday, April 15; Thursday, May 22. The Committee's deadline for a report to the City Manager is May 1997.

Ground rules: Co-chair Woods said that the Committee was going to deliberate among itself and not take comments from the audience until the end of the meeting. This was so the members could begin to discuss amongst themselves which it had not done as yet. She encouraged the audience to write down its comments.

Agenda: There were two items for discussion --

The Program for the Library: examining the contents of

the "net" the Committee cast during Phase 2, Envisioning and gathering data.

Revisiting the 3-page list of unresolved issues developed at the last meeting and mailed out to Committee members.

Co-chair Woods said that the approach for tonight's meeting would be as follows:

Based on the Cambridge Public Library staff, the Committee's work to date, determine what kinds of services, features will create a main library "to equitably meet the needs of the people of Cambridge and enhance the quality of life in Cambridge?" (from the Committee's mission statement)

The Committee would start with the program elements outlined in the Aaron Cohen report (and summarized by Susan Flannery at the previous meeting) and add/subtract or add new things and say why. This report represents significant input from the library staff.

Co-chair Woods said that she had spoken with almost all of the Committee members over the last few days and they seemed to think that this was a reasonable starting point. She handed out a worksheet as a visual aide. The goal for the evening, based on her conversations with members was as follows:

Begin to define the library we need, the ideal or "nice to have", what we must have, list the considerations under each library component and focus on the public areas

Susan Flannery introduced the CPL staff who were attending the meeting and, at the Co-chair's request, read the library's mission statement.

For the next period of time, the Committee discussed each component of the program. The Committee's comments are added in *ITALICS* to the attached sheets.

Break

After the break, Co-chair Woods said she recognized that some members felt that the group was not making progress. She asked the Committee if another approach would be more productive. The sense of the Committee was to continue to discuss each program component as planned.

Co-chair Rossi said that it was important to understand how the library got to where it was with the Cohen report. He said the Committee should try and come to grips -- is this plan something the Committee can support or will we reach a point of having to go back to the City Council and say that the program does not work here and that we need a new site.

Or, acknowledge that we can live with this site and expand the building to fit X footprint, but with some dents in the program. Mr. Rossi said that we should establish a footprint and ask the architect to tell us what can be built here in terms of square footage. Then come back and prioritize what fits, with a minimum and maximum.

He suggested that the Committee continue the discussion now, but wait until another meeting to discuss priorities.

(Someone) on the Committee said: we can't tell what will fit without having a design and you can't design without a program; have to give the program to a designer along with the boundaries.

The discussion of the program elements continued.

At the close of the meeting, approximately 10:00 p.m. asked everyone to think over what was listed and discussed. Also to review the list of unresolved issues and figure out which ones were not resolved as of this meeting. The notes will go out as soon as possible for the members to advise her and Mr. Rossi on the approach to take for the next meeting.

Given the lateness of the hour, Ms. Woods closed the meeting without taking verbal comments from the audience.

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Group comments on Program Elements collected during meeting

DISPLAY SPACE FOR PUBLIC FLYERS, COMMUNITY NEWS
AND INFORMATION

PAY PHONES

WAITING AREA WITH SEATING FOR PICK UP

DEDICATED SNACK AREA (SOMEWHERE!)

ONE STOP SERVICE: STAFF FOLLOWS THROUGH
UNTIL NEEDS ARE MET

(NOTE: COMPUTERS ARE STAFF INTENSIVE TO MAINTAIN

DOUBLE THE PERIODICAL TITLES

(STUDY ROOMS = APPROX. 1000 SQ FT)

COMPUTER ROOM AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS
WHEN NOT IN USE FOR TRAINING

INCLUDES A TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE IN

A SEPARATE AREA

NEED MORE READING AREA

--

MORE BOOKS ON TAPE
POPULAR TITLES VS. CLASSICS
VIEWING FOR CITY TV CHANNELS
MORE FOREIGN LANGUAGE MATERIALS
TRAINING VIDEOS
MORE LISTENING EQUIPMENT: HEAD PHONES,
TAPE RECORDERS, COMPUTERS
ORGANIZE AV WITH RELATED PRINT MATERIALS

--

NEED TO DEFINE MORE PRECISELY -- HOLDS
ARCHIVAL MATERIALS FOR LIBRARY NOT CITY RECORDS

SCAN MATERIALS INTO A COMPUTER OR CATALOGUE AND
STORE ELSEWHERE

NEED TO HAVE SOME MATERIALS ACCESSIBLE BY PATRONS
NEED STAFF TO SUPPORT PATRON USE
COULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO A LARGE DONOR

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SEATING INTERSPERSED
SAFETY AND SECURITY ARE ISSUES
SET A MAXIMUM # OF VOLUMES AT ABOUT 500K

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LOCATE NEAR THE REFERENCE AREA BECAUSE YA NEED AND WANT
REFERENCE MATERIALS
DOES THIS INCLUDE A "YA" COLLECTION OF MATERIALS?
NEED MORE REFERENCE MATERIALS IN THE REF. AREA
"NOISY" AREAS
RESPONSIVE STAFF
LARGER BROWSING AREA
MORE STUDY ROOMS, BUT USEABLE BY OTHERS
COMPUTER AREAS
WATER BUBBLERS
COMPUTER GAMES

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RUGS ON FLOORS
LARGE SCREEN VIDEO VIEWING AREA
SNACK AREA
ARTS AND CRAFTS
"NOISY" AREA

--

STRONG NEED FOR MEETING SPACES
NEED FOR PERFORMANCE AREA

RENTAL FOR PRIVATE GROUPS
FLEXIBLE SPACES

--

CABLE OFFICE --

PROBABLY DOES NOT NEED TO BE CO-LOCATED

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